

I have been a customer of an independent Internet service provider (ISP) for nearly 10 years--that is, ever since I began using the Internet. Except for a brief period when my broadband service was provided by Pacific Bell/SBC, I have stayed with my independent ISP, Sonic.net, even when I have moved out of state. This is a choice I made over and over again because Sonic.net has consistently provided far superior service than what I experienced with SBC, at a competitive price.

Deregulating the phone companies' control of broadband lines, without a viable alternative pipeline for independent ISPs, would hurt competition (and thus consumers) in the long run. Until there is an alternative way for independent ISPs to deliver broadband Internet competitively, broadband service delivered via telephone lines should continue to be subject to regulation.